

County looks into recycling

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The Sullivan County Commissioners have requested proposals from qualified consultants to provide a business plan/feasibility assessment for a materials recovery facility for Sullivan County.

"My understanding is it's a place for recycling and a place for recyclables," Sullivan County Commission Chairwoman Ethel Jarvis said.

The Sullivan County Commission is working cooperatively with Antioch New England Institute and residents involved in the Waste Action Collaborative of Sullivan County to explore the best approach for realigning waste management priorities in the county.

Currently, 12 of the 15 communities in the county belong to the Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District, which is expected to dissolve in July as part of the New Hampshire - Vermont Solid Waste Project.

After that, the communities will no longer be under contract to send their solid waste to Wheelabrator in Claremont.

ANET and WACSC have developed an action plan for the county and one of their recommendations is the construction of a materials recovery facility to serve the county's communities.

"There is a lot of support for recycling in the county," Jarvis said. "They want to do recycling, but it isn't convenient for them."

Currently, 12 transfer stations in the county serve a population of 43,000 with most of these stations offering a recycling center. All of the stations are municipally owned, except for the transfer station in Newport which is privately owned.

The proposed materials recovery facility would serve all Sullivan County residents and allow them to dispose of their recyclables at no cost.

"Recycling is the way to go," Jarvis said. "It's good for the environment."

Jarvis said it was too early in the process to speculate about the potential cost for a materials recovery facility, or when it may become operational.

"We'll be talking about it in the near future," she said.

The proposals commissioners requested are due April 20 with interviews and final selection to be conducted May 4.